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ABSTRACT

The Ounce of Prevention Fund is a public-private partnership which promotes the well-being of children and adolescents by working with families, communities, and policymakers. Following a letter from the Fund's chairman and president discussing the challenges faced in program evaluation and reiterating the Fund's commitment to public-private partnerships, this report presents highlights from the past 2 years, while profiling some of the partners with whom the Fund works. The report describes the roots of the Fund as a laboratory where theories were tested in the real world and turned into best practices. The remainder of the report is organized around the four cornerstones of the Fund: (1) program; (2) training; (3) research; and (4) advocacy. Program highlights include provision of early childhood care and education through Early Head Start and Head Start programs in Chicago, combining resources to enhance program quality, expanding services through a new educare center, and using preventive health care to help children, adolescents, and their families. Training highlights include program development training and technical assistance to the Parents Too Soon program and the Doula Project. Research highlights include research and evaluation efforts related to substance abuse prevention in the Fund's Head Start sites and developing new micro-computer based management information systems for use by program sites. Advocacy highlights include a joint effort with Family Focus, Inc., called Kids Public Education and Policy Project, to inform public officials and others about issues affecting children and family. A Partner Profile is included with each section. Also included in the report is a statement of the Fund's operating revenues and expenses, a list of sites, and a list of donors to the Fund. (KB)

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THE OUNCE OF PREVENTION FUND

1998-1999 Biennial Report

PS 030209

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Our Mission:

The Ounce of Prevention Fund invests in the healthy development of infants, children, adolescents and families through an innovative cycle of program implementation, research, training, policy analysis and advocacy to prevent physical, social and emotional problems later in life.

Partnerships

The Ounce of Prevention Fund recently celebrated our 15th Anniversary.

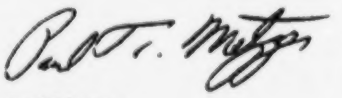
We have entered our own adolescence and remain a young organization relative to the Chicago non-profit community. Despite our youth—or, perhaps, because of it—we have established the Ounce of Prevention Fund as a leader in the fields of early childhood and adolescence. We have earned a reputation as an innovative and entrepreneurial organization and have become involved in a variety of exciting programs including Early Head Start, Healthy Families Illinois, the Doula Project and Straight from the Heart—all of which you will read about in this report. We continue to believe that our role as catalyst and "midwife" to these types of initiatives is consistent with our mission and unique talents.

The work, of course, is not without its challenges. As the field grows and early childhood programs spring up in hospitals, public schools and elsewhere, we've begun to think more deeply about our program evaluation methods. Because the work we do is so individualized, aggregating data about individual change poses a number of complex challenges. This is due, in part, to the difficult situations confronting the families we serve. But it's also due to the enormity of the task of measuring the intangibles of the interactions between parents and their children, not to mention the child's own distinct developmental path and timetable.

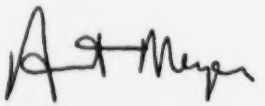
We have spent years gathering hard data on immunization rates, subsequent birthrates, school attendance and work participation, but we remain humbled by the prospect of attributing a particular change in an individual to a particular intervention. The Ounce, working as we always do with partners in a variety of fields, will continue to grapple with these challenges and learn to assess ways to better evaluate our community-based programs in the years ahead.

One aspect of our work that will not change is our commitment to public-private partnerships. The concept builds upon Irving Harris' original vision of using private money to conceive new, effective interventions and public funds to ensure that prevention programs find stable financial support. This vision remains vital to our work. The ongoing commitment of the Pittway Corporation to the work of the Ounce and the field of early childhood has provided us with the capacity to hire and retain the most talented staff while taking a long-term view of our projects. Indeed, this has been our greatest asset.

This biennial report, "Partnerships," describes this dynamic and recaps highlights from the past two years while profiling some of the partners who make our work possible. For those of you who have been with us over the years, we thank you for your support and salute you for your commitment. For those of you who are new to the field of prevention, you join us at an exciting moment, when science is revolutionizing our understanding of how children begin learning at birth. We welcome each of you to the *next* 15 years of work ensuring that young children and their families receive the very best start in life.



Paul Metzger
Chairman



Harriet Meyer
President

We welcome you to the next 15 years of our work—ensuring that young children and their families receive the very best start in life.

The Ounce is a unique laboratory where the best theories get tested in the real world and turned into best practices for the entire field

From Best Theories to Best Practices: ...s in Perspective

From the beginning, our work at the Ounce of Prevention Fund has been rooted in the best methods, data and scientific literature of various academic disciplines. We remain true to that commitment, guided by the original vision of Judith Musick, a developmental psychologist who served as our founding executive director.

Sometimes, as with our discovery of the important connections between teen pregnancy and earlier sexual abuse, we were forerunners in the field. More frequently though, we have distilled findings from various researchers and modified that knowledge so community-based practitioners could put it to practical use. Over the years, the Ounce of Prevention Fund has become a unique laboratory where the best theories get tested in the real world and turned into best practices for the entire field.

The evolution of our work in the Grand Boulevard neighborhood on Chicago's south side is just one example of this dynamic.

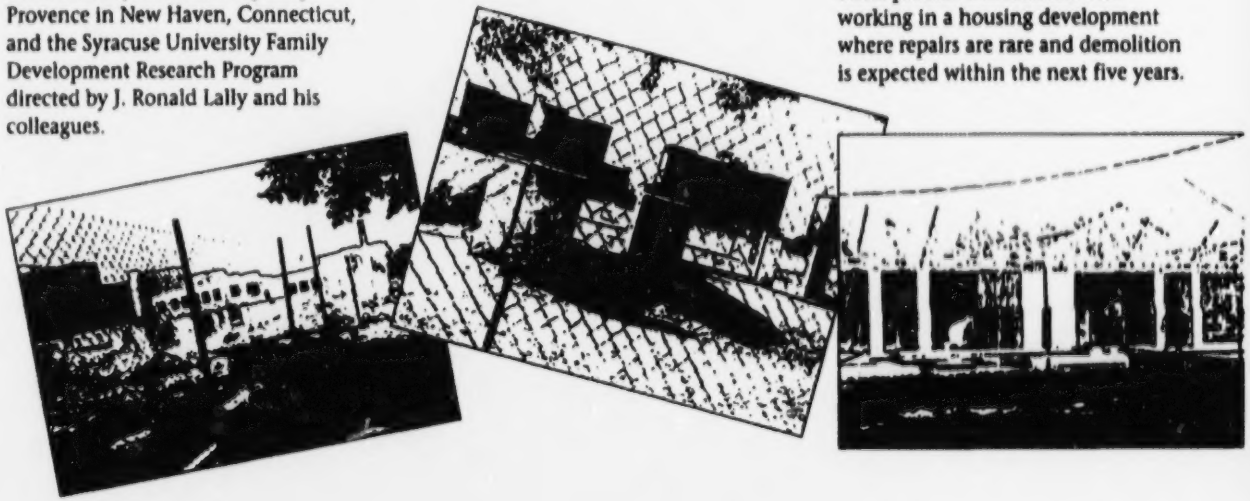
In 1986, the Ounce of Prevention Fund and the Harris Foundation opened the Center for Successful Child Development (CSCD) on the second floor of the Robert Taylor Homes high rise at 4848 S. State Street. The center — sometimes referred to as CSCD and other times called the "Beethoven Project" because of its proximity to the Beethoven Elementary School — was modeled after the Yale Child Welfare Research Project directed by Sally Provence in New Haven, Connecticut, and the Syracuse University Family Development Research Program directed by J. Ronald Lally and his colleagues.

Our plan was to transfer these small, successful models to the very challenging neighborhood of Grand Boulevard by providing comprehensive services to pregnant moms and their children until they entered kindergarten at Beethoven Elementary five years later.

As we struggled to cobble together funding and provide child care, health care and family support services, our work served as a catalyst for a new federal initiative called the Comprehensive Child Development Program, which was created in 1988. Scores of programs were established across the country incorporating the same knowledge used to start our own program. In part, our work and these other new programs were used as a "learning ground" for the development of another federal initiative, Early Head Start.

Early Head Start—which recognizes that learning begins at birth—was established in 1994 and is designed to serve children from birth to three years. Clearly the most exciting early childhood initiative in the past 30 years, there are now hundreds of Early Head Start programs across the country. What's more, under recently passed federal law, Early Head Start and Head Start should continue to expand at least until the year 2002.

Meanwhile, back on the local level, our own work continued to evolve. The challenge of providing services in public housing was beginning to take an even greater toll after more than a decade in the Robert Taylor Homes. In 1998, our families and staff were increasingly caught in gunfire between rival street gangs. Furthermore, we found ourselves having to deal with sewage backups, bug infestation and other problems associated with working in a housing development where repairs are rare and demolition is expected within the next five years.



At the end of June 1998, we moved from 4848 S. State Street, but we continue to provide infant-toddler services in our center on the first floor of the Robert Taylor Homes high rise at 4946 S. State Street. In addition, our home visitors are now housed a block away in the new Charles A. Hayes Family Investment Center, which was recently renovated by the Chicago Housing Authority. The Hayes Center also features our health services, which we're providing in collaboration with Cook County Bureau of Health Services. The Hayes Center—with new facilities on gang neutral turf—is proving to be a welcomed addition for families in Grand Boulevard.

What's more, the Ounce has built a new, state-of-the-art Early Childhood Educare Center that will provide full-day, full-year early education and child care for 182 children between the ages of three months and five years. The center features 13 classrooms, as well as a large, on-site training room and protected, outdoor playground space. Located across the street from our original facilities at 4848 S. State Street, the new Educare Center is nestled between Farren Elementary School and DuSable High School, creating a "cradle-to-12th grade" campus on one block.

We've built the center through a unique partnership involving Head Start, the Chicago Public Schools, the State of Illinois, the Harris Foundation, other private donors and people from the community. Designed by acclaimed architect Stanley Tigerman, the new Early Childhood Educare Center represents a multi-million dollar investment in early childhood, another step forward in the evolution of learning how to best help children and families receive the best start in life, and a concrete example of the Ounce's commitment to transforming the best theories into the best practices for children and their families. Indeed, the seeds we planted more than a dozen years ago in Grand Boulevard have taken root and are growing strong.

Our new Early Childhood Educare Center

Partner Profile

The Pittway Corporation — Improving the Community

The Pittway Corporation provided the starter fuel for the Ounce of Prevention Fund. It was Pittway's support that offered the required match of initial funds with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services in 1982. While there has been no obligation for Pittway to contribute since 1982, Pittway has contributed annually. It has been Pittway's dependable, continuous support every year since 1982 that has enabled the Ounce to further develop many innovative approaches to social services.

Ours is a unique partnership between a corporation and non-profit — one that serves as a model for corporate philanthropy.

The Pittway Corporation's philanthropic philosophy is unusual. In 1982, Irving Harris was CEO of Pittway. It was — and remains — Irving Harris' and Pittway's firm belief that "our customers, our employees, and the children of our employees have to be healthy for the company to succeed. Any corporation has a duty to make sure that the society in which it operates is functioning at full capacity."

King Harris, current President and CEO of Pittway Corporation, shares and furthers his uncle's philosophy of corporate philanthropy by spearheading Pittway's contribution of over $1 million dollars a year to Illinois non-profits. The Ounce of Prevention Fund is fortunate to receive the largest of Pittway's grants and the Ounce has benefited from this partnership in many ways — from the generous financial support which allows us to create and refine new programs, fortify our advocacy work on behalf of children and families, and strengthen our general operations; to providing personnel resources in the form of Board members; to the individual support of Pittway employees.

Pittway has benefited as well. "We feel that we have gotten a huge return on our investment in the Ounce," says King Harris. "Over fifteen years we've seen what was an idea for an innovative public/private partnership mushroom into one of the most successful early childhood research and demonstration projects in the country. We like to think of ourselves as innovators in our field, and what I admire about the Ounce is that it keeps innovating — it's not an organization that sits on its successes."

Irving Harris believes that the long-term commitment of Pittway to the Ounce and to other Illinois organizations is "done selfishly because it makes the community better for our shareholders, our employees and our neighbors."

King Harris confirms Pittway's ongoing commitment to the Ounce of Prevention Fund. "Irving Harris for a long time tried to get people in the public sector interested in the problems of very young children and their families," he says. "To his credit, we have come a long way, there has been some progress, but the amount of public funding for this area is still woefully inadequate."

"Pittway has provided passionate inspiration to the fields of early childhood and adolescent development," notes Harriet Meyer, President of the Ounce. "And Pittway has provided the Ounce with 'venture capital,' giving us the freedom to plan and take some risks in pursuing our mission. We're profoundly grateful for their ongoing support."

We chose the name the Ounce of Prevention Fund because we believe it's more caring and cost-effective to promote healthy child development than to treat problems later in life. We focus our efforts on the two critical stages when people undergo their most rapid physical, intellectual, emotional and social growth—the first five years of life and adolescence.

The Four Cornerstones: A Dynamic Innovation

Our work is built upon four cornerstones:

- **Program:** We develop programs and provide services for about 8,300 children and their families.
- **Training:** We offer specialized training to people who work in community agencies throughout Illinois.
- **Research:** We conduct research and evaluation to better understand "what works" in helping children.
- **Advocacy:** We advocate for public policy changes that better serve all children and families.

By linking these four cornerstones, we create a dynamic cycle of innovation that helps us work with families on some of the most challenging issues in the nation.

Our "Straight From the Heart" program is a good example of the interactive nature of our work as well as the partnerships—in this case, with schools, families, community-based agencies, private funders and others—needed to achieve success. This new sexual abuse prevention program grew from our project called "Heart to Heart," which was developed by the Ounce ten years ago and is now a nationally recognized program teaching teen mothers, a population who has experienced sexual abuse at alarming rates, to recognize and prevent the sexual abuse of their own children. Recognizing the cyclical nature of sexual abuse, our research identified that the younger siblings of our teen moms were also at increased risk of sexual abuse and early sexual behavior.

We understood from developmental theory that we needed a very different curriculum for these pre-adolescents, one that discussed sexuality sensitively, in terms and with images appropriate for this young, vulnerable group of children. We piloted a program in two communities that worked with pre-adolescent boys and girls to develop such a curriculum. In 1998, with multi-year support from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, we entered a period of implementation, evaluation, rewriting and reworking the program. After final evaluation, we will further refine the curriculum and disseminate it nationally.

Program Highlights: *a Better Future, Child At a Time*

The Ounce of Prevention Fund recognizes that children begin learning at birth and experience their most rapid growth during their earliest years. Recent strides in brain research show how early experiences—not just the prescription of genetics—play a major role in nurturing brain development. What's more, adult-child relationships in the early years have a particularly strong influence on a child's emotional development—affecting their ability to cope with stress and manage feelings, influencing their level of persistence and self-motivation in learning about the world, and shaping their ability to relate to others.

The early years present a window of opportunity in which "emotional foundations" are created that profoundly affect every child's psychological and neurological development, which in turn affects the child's readiness to succeed in school. At the same time, the Ounce recognizes that children will undergo various stages of development as they continue to grow.

Providing Early Childhood Care and Education

The goals of our programs for children between the ages of birth and five years, as well as their families, are three-fold:

- to provide children from the earliest possible moment with the environment and support to develop intellectually, socially, emotionally, and physically so they will be ready to learn in school;
- to improve family interactions and relationships between parents and their children by helping parents learn how to support and encourage their children's healthy development; and
- to improve the overall health of children and their families by providing quality primary health care and health education.

Our Early Head Start program works with children from birth to three years old and their parents in the Grand Boulevard community on Chicago's south side. This program offers: year-round, center-based and home-based developmental care, as well as home visiting, peer support groups, community activities, volunteer opportunities and employment opportunities.

Our Early Head Start center-based care is provided at our Infant/Toddler Center, located on the first floor of one of the high rises in the Robert Taylor Homes public housing complex. In addition, home visiting teams—including an infant development specialist and a family support worker—offer information, guidance and support while remaining mindful that parents are the most influential and important people in a child's life. In a community like Grand Boulevard—where families experience many challenges and multiple disruptions in their lives—a continuous, committed and caring relationship with one of our staff members often represents the first trusting relationship in the young mother's life.

Head Start is a 35-year-old federal program that provides pre-school education for children between the ages of three years and five years in low-income communities. Historically, children enrolled for 3.5 hours per day and received preschool education that promoted their healthy development. As early as 1987, the Ounce recognized the importance of combining this impressive model with child care in order to provide full-day learning. Since then, we've opened a number of full-day classrooms to pursue two important goals: first, to extend Head Start to meet the growing need families have for high-quality, full-day child care; and second, to maintain an intense interaction with the children in our programs. Research shows that intensity is required in the most effective intervention and prevention models.

In Grand Boulevard, we directly operate St. Paul Head Start and Garfield Head Start. We also subcontract with delegate agencies—Children's Home and Aid Society, Casa Central, Aunt Martha's and, most recently, the YWCA—to operate additional sites. These partner agencies extend the reach of the Ounce and challenge us to understand the disparate needs of diverse communities. At all of the sites, children participate in classroom activities while their parents can find job readiness training and referral networks through which they can pursue continued education, GED, job training, and employment activities.

Combining Resources to Enhance our Quality in 7 Ways

We improve the quality and comprehensiveness of our birth-to-five programs by combining funding from state and federal government sources with private contributions from foundations, corporations and individuals. Private dollars currently support a number of valuable program enhancements and allow us to respond to new needs in the Grand Boulevard community. For example:

- *Low Child/Staff Ratios:* Small group sizes and low child/caregiver ratios contribute greatly to the establishment of trusting, secure relationships that are essential to providing high quality care and developing identity among young children. Our birth-to-five center-based programs surpass state regula-

tions for child/staff ratios in early childhood programs. The child/staff ratios in our programs range from 3:1 for infants to 6:1 for three- to five-year olds.

■ ***The Hayes Family Health Center:*** The Ounce has begun a joint venture with Cook County Bureau of Health Services to provide high quality medical services that will contribute to the healthy physical development of children and their families. This new health center is housed in the recently renovated Charles A. Hayes Family Investment Center in the heart of Grand Boulevard and builds on the health services we provided at the Center for Successful Child Development for the past 13 years. The Hayes Family Health Center provides sick- and well-child care, including vaccinations, physicals, developmental screenings, and eye and hearing tests, as well as prenatal care to pregnant women.

■ ***Early Childhood Group Therapy Program:*** This program addresses the emotional health of children living under the stresses of poverty. Group therapy is an innovative intervention with young children that is considered more effective than individual treatment for children who are depressed, withdrawn, hyperactive, or who have limited verbal skills—behaviors that are displayed by about 42 percent of the children in our Head Start programs. The Early Childhood Group Therapy Program provides children with an opportunity to develop positive ways to express themselves so they can participate in the classroom setting and socialize in ways that help them learn, develop and, most important, avoid special placement in elementary school.

■ ***Mental Health Services:*** Although we focus on the parent-child relationship as the primary context for the child's development, we recognize that for many of our families, the parent-infant relationship is strained by the external environment, the parent's mental health needs, or the parent's inability to meet the demands of small children. Our programs provide specialized mental health programming to address these issues in a family's life.

■ ***Language Development Services:*** Early language development is a key area in which children in our community tend to lag behind national norms. Parents and other caregivers serve a crucial role in supporting the language development of children. Our Language Development Services train parents and caregivers about how to support and strengthen the language development of their children, while identifying and working with children who have speech delays.

■ ***Nutrition Services:*** While research has clearly demonstrated that adequate nutrition during the prenatal period and the first three years of life is critically important for a child's healthy development, many of the families we serve are poorly informed about good nutrition for their babies and young children. The Ounce provides consultation with a nutritionist who helps parents better understand how to provide adequate nutrition for themselves and their children as a foundation for their child's healthy physical and intellectual development. Due to extraordinary new brain research illustrating the critical connection between nutrition and prenatal brain development, we have stepped up our efforts to locate and recruit pregnant mothers into health services to ensure that their health needs are being met.

■ ***OunceLink, management information system:*** The Ounce has designed an extensive computer database designed to monitor service delivery and measure progress made by individual children and families in our birth-to-five programs. OunceLink connects our direct service sites in Grand Boulevard with our administrative offices downtown. The system will allow program supervisors and research staff to review and analyze individual as well as aggregate data on services delivered to children and their families. OunceLink also will allow staff to analyze the outcomes of these services, both immediately and over time, to assist with planning. Ultimately, this state-of-the-art technology will offer our staff a new tool to identify the best strategies for supporting children and families as they take steps to improve their lives.

Stepping into the 21st Century

Our new Early Childhood Educare Center will expand our services as well as the depth of our programming in Grand Boulevard. "Educare" combines early education and child care—and, indeed, our new Educare Center will provide full-day, full-year early learning opportunities and developmental child care for 182 children between the ages of birth and five years.

We've built the new Center in a unique partnership with the Chicago Public Schools, Head Start, the State of Illinois, the Harris Foundation, private donors, families in our programs and other community members. Nestled between Farren Elementary School and DuSable High School, our new Educare Center is being built upon a foundation of solid research proving the importance of providing an "intensity" of services during the first five years of life—as well as upon our own experience of working in this community for more than 13 years.

The Educare Center's spectacular design and functional relevance to child development will enhance learning while providing a safe environment where children can learn through play, as well.

Using Preventive Health Care to Help Children, Adolescents and their Families

In order to assist children during adolescence more directly, the Ounce developed four school-based health centers in partnership with the Chicago Public Schools, the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS), and a consortium of private funders in 1985. The health centers are located at three Chicago high schools (DuSable, Orr and Crane) and one elementary school (Beethoven).

Clinicians from Rush-Presbyterian Hospital and the Cook County Bureau of Health Services provide services at Orr and Crane high schools located on Chicago's west side and Cook County assumed responsibility for services at DuSable High School and Beethoven Elementary School in July 1998.

These four school-based health centers are staffed by doctors, registered nurses, social workers, and health educators. With parental consent, students receive comprehensive primary care including physicals, immunizations, management of chronic conditions like asthma and treatment of acute problems. Health educators and social workers provide students with individual care and counseling in the health centers, and also lead small-group and school-wide health education efforts. The staff at the school-based health centers deliver medical and/or psychosocial care to over 2,400 students during more than 8,000 encounters.

Because of evidence showing that depression, early sexual activity and violent behavior are manifested before entrance to high school, the Ounce decided to target children earlier than high school when we opened the health center in 1995 at Beethoven Elementary. Last year, the Dawson-Ford Health Center at Beethoven posted the highest registration rate of all our health centers, with a full 93 percent of the Beethoven student body registered to receive health center services. The center experienced more than 2,800 visits with students during their extended school year, a record for any of the school-based health centers.

The Ounce's long-term commitment to school-based health centers, along with the development of a funding collaboration between a consortium of private funders and the State of Illinois, has provided the framework and model for a statewide expansion of school-based health centers. Dozens of centers have been developed in recent years, each creating new partnerships and methods for delivering health services in school. The longevity of the school-based model, impressive utilization rates, our advocacy work in support of this issue and the very positive results of a research project funded by the National Institute of Mental Health have allowed the Ounce to demonstrate the validity and efficacy of this unique approach.

Partner Profile

Families—Making Our Programs Stronger

The work of every good organization is built upon some basic beliefs.

At the Ounce of Prevention Fund, we believe that every family and every community has strengths. We believe that our society must invest more in the first five years of life and adolescence—two critical times when people undergo rapid intellectual, physical, emotional and social growth. And we believe that change occurs in sustained, nurturing, one-to-one relationships between staff, parents and their children.

None of this has to be explained to Darlene Gills. Or any of the other parents who serve on our Head Start Policy Council.

In fact, one of the main jobs of these partners—the parents who comprise the Policy Council—is to make certain that the organization abides by its core beliefs.

"The Policy Council provides direction and guidance for the Ounce's Head Start and Early Head Start programs in Grand Boulevard," explains Ms. Gills. "We review and approve budgets. We participate in hiring decisions. We provide input on program changes."

But family involvement in the partnership isn't solely limited to participation on the Policy Council.

"The more that parents participate, the stronger our programs become," notes Ms. Gills. "Head Start is designed to involve the whole family, not just the children. There's a role for every parent and a responsibility to help make sure that the program is as good as it can be."

Training Highlights: ...g New Skills ...d Capacities

Parents Too Soon was the result of our first partnership, in 1982, between the Pittway Corporation and the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services.

Today, Parents Too Soon is a statewide partnership between the Illinois Department of Human Services, the Ounce and nearly 40 community-based sites throughout the state. The sites receive state money through the Ounce, which assists with program development by providing specialized training, other technical assistance and monitoring.

These programs emphasize long-term, one-on-one relationships between teens and program staff. The programs offer one or both of the following services:

- ***Pregnant and Parenting Services,*** which provide voluntary home visits as well as parenting groups to build strong parent-child relationships, raise healthy children and encourage teen parents to finish school. We reach about 1,900 school-aged parents and their children with these services.

- ***Primary Prevention Services,*** which encourage young people to avoid premature parenthood while giving them skills to help make the right choices and resolve conflicts. We reach about 2,550 non-parenting adolescents with these services.

While a national survey shows that 14.8 percent of teen moms become pregnant again within a year after giving birth, recent surveys show that only 6.5 percent of Parents Too Soon participants had subsequent pregnancies. Vigorous efforts to promote on-time, complete immunization has led to a 77.2 percent immunization rate among the children of parents in this program. Teen moms who entered Parents Too Soon while pregnant were about 20 percent less likely to have low- to very-low birth weight babies than other Illinois teen parents. What's more, virtually all of the participants in our primary prevention services stayed in school.

Staying on the Cutting Edge

In addition to these services, the Ounce has developed a number of other programs to meet various challenges our work in Parents Too Soon has uncovered. For instance, our Developmental Training and Support Program trains direct service staff at the community level on a model of interaction with participants that nurtures and supports the development of the young parents and their children. Our Heart to Heart and Straight From the Heart programs focus on pregnancy prevention with a special emphasis on avoiding sexual abuse.

Another interesting, cutting edge effort is the Doula Project—in which "doulas" (birthing assistants) provide information and emotional support to pregnant teens. The doulas conduct regular home visits, accompany the teens through labor and delivery, and offer extensive postpartum guidance. The project is supported by a four-year grant from the Harris Foundation and the Robert Wood Johnson Local Funding Initiative. The Chicago Health Connection administers the project in partnership with the Ounce and three community-based organizations in Chicago—Marillac Social Center, Christopher House and Alivio Medical Center.

The Doula Project aims to optimize the opportunities that exist during the period immediately surrounding labor

and delivery to enhance the relationship between the adolescent mother and her child. The project seeks to help parents understand, through their relationship with their doula, the importance of early brain development and their critical role in shaping the emotional, intellectual and social development of their children.

Research and evaluation on the Doula Project is showing impressive results, particularly in increasing breastfeeding rates among young moms. Before the project was launched, fewer than 2 percent of the new moms at the Marillac Center were breastfeeding; now, about two-thirds breastfeed, an important indicator of later and secure parent-child attachment.

Offering Unique, Specialized Trainings

Parents Too Soon is a leader in the development of training programs and materials for prevention efforts across the state. We offer more than 100 days of trainings that are designed to help staff working with parents and children develop skills and knowledge in six major competency areas: adolescent development; early childhood development; child abuse and neglect; family life; the helping relationship; and supervision and program administration.

In addition, the Ounce has created a number of specialized training programs focusing on child abuse prevention, promoting infant development and parent-infant attachment, the use of screening instruments for the detection of developmental delays in children, family support and assessment skills, and the development of program logic models and outcome evaluations. This training helps staff at our partner agencies provide high quality services to our participants.

During fiscal year 1998 and expanded in fiscal year 1999, Illinois launched an exciting new birth-to-three initiative known as Healthy Families Illinois. Healthy Families is based on a highly regarded child abuse and prevention model developed in Hawaii. Parents Too Soon subsequently received funding from the state based on its experience and expertise to provide an intensive training program for staff at all new sites.

This expansion of the Ounce's training role has challenged us to build an agency infrastructure to support increased demand from providers of these services. We see training as the keystone to success for any intervention—especially for staff who are working throughout the state with families facing numerous challenges.

Partner Profile

The State of Illinois—Creating Stability

To fully understand the partnership between the State of Illinois and the Ounce of Prevention Fund, you must go back to the beginning.

In 1982, Irving Harris and Bernice Weissbourd met with a man named Greg Coler, then Director of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. Mr. Harris was then the chairman of the Pittway Corporation and Ms. Weissbourd had founded Family Focus, Inc., a few years earlier.

At the time, the Pittway Corporation had many employees at its plant in Aurora whose families were considered at-risk of family dysfunction. They recognized this could lead to child abuse or neglect. Irving Harris and Bernice Weissbourd were meeting with Greg Coler to request a $25,000 grant for each of three years for a family support center to match their offer of $75,000 annually.

"Greg immediately saw the logic of preventing the causes of child abuse and neglect—and he raised the stakes," Mr. Harris recalls.

By the end of the meeting, Pittway Corporation had agreed to provide $400,000 in the first year to be matched by a commitment for $2 million (over three years) from DCFS to open and operate six new prevention programs.

A partnership in prevention was created. The Ounce of Prevention Fund was born.

Since then, while the Ounce has grown and expanded, the State of Illinois has remained a valuable, committed partner. Over the years, private dollars from Pittway and other donors and foundations have ensured flexibility in our work while public dollars have created stability.

Today, the Ounce has evolved into an organization that serves about 8,300 children and their families. Our work is supported by a variety of public partners on both the state and federal levels.

"The concept behind preventing problems just makes common sense," notes Jim Nelson, Director of the Division of Community Health and Prevention in the Illinois Department of Human Services, which currently supports our Parents Too Soon program. "In terms of human costs and financial costs, promoting healthy child development is a much better investment than treating problems later in life."

Research Highlights: *derstanding hat Works"*

Research and evaluation at the Ounce take on a variety of forms.

Program evaluation includes working with each program to ensure that services are tracked and monitored effectively—to make certain that the data collected are analyzed and reported in ways helpful to manage, evaluate and further develop the program.

We also host academic research projects and initiate research of our own to advance the field. We recently helped to launch a new substance abuse prevention effort involving families in our Head Start sites in Grand Boulevard. Called "Starting Early, Starting Smart," the effort is being conducted by The Women's Treatment Center and the University of Chicago under the auspices of SAMHSA, the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration. Over the next few years, researchers will evaluate the impact of these prevention services on families in our Head Start programs while providing access to treatment for parents, as well.

The Ounce also recently completed a multi-year project funded by the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect (NCCAN) to expand implementation and evaluation of our Heart to Heart program, which is a sex abuse prevention program for teen mothers and their children. We completed the evaluation portion of the project, which indicated that Heart to Heart effectively educates teen moms—many of whom were sexually abused themselves—about how to recognize and prevent the sexual abuse of their children. Researchers also are currently evaluating our Straight from the Heart project, which pays particular attention to the history of child sexual abuse in high-risk children and provides them with instruction in social problem solving, relationships, and family violence.

Exploring New Technologies

Our research staff also have developed two micro-computer based management information systems for use by our program sites. Similar to our OunceLink system in Grand Boulevard, over 30 Parents Too Soon programs across Illinois use our StarGate system to monitor service delivery and utilization, and to evaluate program outcomes.

StarGate also is being used in an ongoing, collaborative research project with nationally known prevention researcher Dr. Susan Philliber, who is working with our Parents Too Soon primary prevention programs to formally evaluate the effectiveness of their programs. In fiscal year 1998, StarGate was revised to include more outcome indicators, allowing staff to input information about the status of participants. For example, in the case of a primary prevention program which works to stem early pregnancy and childbearing among adolescents, we can collect and examine data that reflect recognized indicators of pregnancy prevention, like academic success, abstinence and birth control utilization.

26

Partner Profile

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation—Enriching our Work

When the Ounce of Prevention Fund opened our Center for Successful Child Development, also known as the Beethoven Project, a primary care health center was a key component of our program.

The center served pregnant women through the birth of their child until his or her fifth birthday. Prenatal care, we knew, was extremely important to the future of a child. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the nation's largest philanthropy devoted exclusively to health care, was interested in this project, as well. They had supported another early childhood development project—the Brookline Early Education Project, a birth-to-five experiment in the late 70s and early 80s—and continued to pursue this idea.

"It was this comprehensive set of services that interested us," recalls Terrance Keenan, Special Program Consultant at the Foundation. "The Center for Successful Child Development was a model program that really flourished and has been a very important catalyst for national efforts."

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation provided support to our Center for Successful Child Development in 1988 and renewed their grant in 1993, which extends their support into the year 2000. "Our support focused on the Primary Care Health Center at CSCD. It was a way RWJ could invest in birth-to-three, through the health component," says Mr. Keenan.

The 10-plus year partnership between the Ounce and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has provided the stability needed to allow us to maintain the program and offer stable, quality health care for the young children and families we serve.

Our partnership with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation recently expanded with their support to help us plan our new Birth to Three Project—an ambitious, multi-year effort to better coordinate the range of birth-to-three programs in Illinois. These sorts of partnerships would not be successful if we did not all want to achieve the same outcomes: better lives for children and their families. These shared goals, constantly refined and discussed, are what has allowed all of us the successes we have seen—none of which could have been achieved if we worked alone.

27

Advocacy Highlights: *as a Champion for Children*

More people are rallying around the fact that it's more caring—and more cost-effective—to promote healthy child development than to treat later problems through foster care, special education and the criminal justice system. In short, they're recognizing that investments in prevention are investments in our future.

Our public policies are only just beginning to reflect our growing knowledge of how the brain grows and how early experiences affect a child's future. We now have scientific proof that a child's success in school will depend to a great extent on characteristics largely formed by the age of three years—long before that child ever steps into a classroom.

That's a message that Kids PEPP—the Kids Public Education and Policy Project, a joint effort between the Ounce of Prevention Fund and Family Focus, Inc.—has been carrying to Springfield and elsewhere throughout Illinois. It's a message that more people are starting to understand.

Kids PEPP staff accomplish their work in a number of ways. They regularly meet with public policy-makers—in one-on-one briefings as well as in group settings—to discuss key issues. They collaborate with other advocates—including Voices for Illinois Children, the Day Care Action Council of Illinois, and the Work, Welfare and Families Coalition—to inform public officials and others about issues affecting children and families. They analyze policy proposals and legislative initiatives, examine new ideas from other states, and publish reports summarizing their research and findings. They also serve on numerous state and federal government task forces, keeping on top of issues such as early childhood, welfare reform and health care.

Kids PEPP staff play a special role in educating public policy-makers about strategies that support the healthy development of children and their families. Because of Kids PEPP's direct link—through the Ounce network of programs—with children and families across Illinois, Kids PEPP staff have the opportunity to hear first-hand how public policies have an impact on real-life families, especially teen parents, families with very low incomes, and families struggling to meet the special educational and developmental needs of their children. In turn, Kids PEPP staff can contact policy-makers and recommend ways to improve services and eliminate the barriers that keep well-intended programs from working more successfully. But Kids PEPP also provides training for the parents we serve so that they can advocate for themselves with state and local agencies—so that they can use their own voices to work more effectively within the system.

Fighting the Good Fight—and Finding Success

In recent years, Kids PEPP staff have been one of the leaders in broadening the public's understanding of the importance of every child's earliest years and in producing dramatic changes for low-income children and their families. They've expanded early learning opportunities designed to better prepare children for school, increased support for voluntary home visiting efforts that help improve parent-child bonds, and helped to expand health insurance coverage for children in working families and pregnant women.

In fiscal year 1998, Kids PEPP staff helped create the state's new Early Childhood Education Block Grant, which combines funding from several programs and encourages better collaboration between schools and child care providers. In part, as the language of the new block grant law was being debated, Kids PEPP organized advocates to testify before the Illinois State Board of Education. In the end, the block grant included an impressive funding increase of $20.1 million. A special 8 percent set-aside targeted at birth-to-three programs guarantees that as funding for the block grant increases, infant-toddler programs will receive stable increases, as well.

During the past year, Kids PEPP also was instrumental in securing a major funding increase for Healthy Families Illinois, a network of voluntary programs in which local family support workers coach new parents at home, fostering healthy parent-child relationships and connecting families with vital community services. In addition, Kids PEPP staff participated in a statewide effort to create and improve KidCare, the state's new child health insurance program, which covers children up to age 19 in families with incomes up to 185 percent of the federal poverty level.

Despite this progress, much remains to be done. While 35 percent of Illinois children are younger than six years old, less than 3 percent of the current state budget is spent on early childhood education. This disparity must be addressed because early learning is critical to a child's later success in school. In addition, more and more communities are asking for help in developing local, voluntary home visiting programs. This need must be met if we want to see healthier children and more successful families.

Kids PEPP, of course, will continue to fight the good fight—and spread the word about the importance of "starting early" in every child's life and the need to help strengthen families.

Partner Profile

Billie Wright Adams, M.D.—Providing Talent and Resources

At a time when so many children and families confront such intimidating challenges, it's easy to ask, can we really make a difference?

If you ask Dr. Billie Wright Adams the answer is a clear and definite yes.

"There is such good documentation to show that—if we start very early—we can make a difference in improving the lives of children and helping them become productive," she explains. What's more, Dr. Adams notes that everyone has a role to play, devoting some of their individual talent and resources to helping children receive the best possible start in life.

"And," she adds, "the interesting thing is, if we help the children, then we help ourselves."

Dr. Adams has been making a difference all of her life. She was born in Bluefield, West Virgina, a mountain town of 24,000 at the gateway to the coal mines. She is named after her father, William Morris Wright, a family practitioner who accepted chickens, potatoes and vegetables from those who could not pay for medical treatment in cash. Dr. Adams moved to Chicago about 37 years ago and has practiced pediatrics for the past 30 years.

As one of the original members of the Ounce's Board of Directors, Dr. Adams also is one of the individuals who've partnered with the organization over the years.

"I was attracted to the Ounce by the mission—the whole idea of focusing on 'prevention' when it comes to the health and development of children," she says.

"I believe in the concept of the Ounce," she adds. "I appreciate the respect the Ounce gives to children and families, and I enjoy being with colleagues who share that same vision."

And, as Dr. Adams notes, it's when people come together with a shared vision that "we can make this a better world for everyone."

Financial Report

Ounce of Prevention Fund
Statement of Operating Revenues and Expenses

Revenues	7/1/97- 6/30/98
Illinois Department of Human Services	$8,518,487
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services	6,962,988
Corporations, Foundations, Trusts and Individuals	2,241,114
Illinois Department of Public Aid	1,865
Interest and Other Revenues	442,753
Total	**$18,167,207**

Expenses	
Parents Too Soon	$7,455,008
Head Start	5,601,392
Center for Successful Child Development	2,134,029
Toward Teen Health	1,197,171
Educare	252,626
Kids PEPP	363,364
Other Programs/Special Projects	352,641
Total	**$17,356,231**

An audited statement for 7/1/98 to 6/30/99 is available upon request.

The Ounce of Prevention Fund

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

The Ounce of Prevention Fund
122 South Michigan Avenue
Suite 2050
Chicago, Illinois 60603-6107

The Ounce of Prevention Fund—
Grand Boulevard Office
37 West 47th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60609

The Ounce of Prevention Fund—
Springfield Office
1 West Old State Capitol Plaza
Myers Building Suite 716
Springfield, Illinois 62701

CHILD & FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

Directly Operated Sites:

The Ounce of Prevention Fund—
Garfield Head Start
30 West Garfield Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60609

The Ounce of Prevention Fund—
Hayes Center
4859 S. Wabash
Chicago, Illinois 60609

The Ounce of Prevention Fund—
Infant-Toddler Center
4946 South State Street
Chicago, Illinois 60609

The Ounce of Prevention Fund—
St. Paul Head Start
4644 South Dearborn Street
Chicago, Illinois 60609

Delegate Agencies:

Aunt Martha's Youth Services
23485 Western Avenue
Park Forest, Illinois 60466

Aunt Martha's Youth Services
1526 Oto Blvd.
Chicago Heights, IL 60411

Aunt Martha's Head Start—
Hickory Hills
119 Chestnut
Park Forest, IL 60466

Aunt Martha's Head Start—
Richton Park
4800 Sauk Trail
Richton Park, Illinois 60477

Aunt Martha's Head Start—
Riverdale
14424 Wentworth Avenue
Riverdale, Illinois 60627

Casa Central
1343 North California
Chicago, Illinois 60622

Casa Central—Casa Infantil
2222 North Kedzie
Chicago, Illinois 60647

Casa Central—LaPosada
22 North Kedzie
Chicago, Illinois 60647

Children's Home and Aid Society of Illinois (CHASI)
217 N. Jefferson, 6th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60661

CHASI—Englewood Family Center
5958 South Marshfield Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60636

CHASI—Viva Family Center
2516 West Division Street
Chicago, Illinois 60622

PARENTS TOO SOON

* provides Pregnant and Parenting Services
** provides Primary Prevention Services
*** provides Primary Prevention Services as well as Pregnant and Parenting Services

Alivio Medical Center*
2415 South Western Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60608

Aunt Martha's Youth Services Center*
23485 Western Avenue
Park Forest, Illinois 60466

Bethany Home**
Residential Administrative Center
P.O. Box 6250
Rock Island, Illinois 61204-6250

Catholic Charities of Chicago*
11255 South Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60628

Center for Children's Services*
702 North Logan Avenue
Danville, Illinois 61832

Chestnut Health Systems***
50 Northgate Industrial Dr.
Granite City, Illinois 62040

Chicago Commons Association**
c/o Suder School
2022 West Washington, Room 209
Chicago, Illinois 60612

Children's Development Center*
650 North Main Street
Rockford, Illinois 61103

Children's Home and Aid Society*
Englewood Family Center
5958 South Marshfield Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60636

Children's Home Association of Illinois***
511 North East Madison
Peoria, Illinois 61603

Christopher House*
2507 North Greenview
Chicago, Illinois 60614-2084

Community Health and Emergency Services*
Rte. 1, Box 11
P.O. Box 233
Cairo, Illinois 62914-0233

Comprehensive Mental Health Center of St. Clair County*
3911 State Street
East St. Louis, Illinois 62205

Family Focus-Aurora***
325 East Galena Boulevard
Aurora, Illinois 60505

Family Focus-Lawndale***
3333 West Arthington
Chicago, Illinois 60623

Family Focus-Our Place**
2010 Dewey
Evanston, Illinois 60201

Family Service Center of Sangamon County*
1308 South Seventh Street
Springfield, Illinois 62703

Fulton County Health Department**
700 East Oak Street
Canton, Illinois 61520

Harris YWCA*
6200 South Drexel Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60637

Hull House Association**
4439 South LaCrosse
Chicago, Illinois 60638

Kankakee Community College*
Dr. King Education Center
1065 South Washington
Kankakee, Illinois 60901

La Voz Latina*
814 North Court Street
Rockford, Illinois 61103

Latino Youth*
2200 South Marshall Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60623

Lutheran Social Services of Illinois**
841 North Galena
P.O. Box 345
Dixon, Illinois 61021

Marillac Social Center*
212 South Francisco
Chicago, Illinois 60612

McHenry County Youth Service Bureau**
101 South Jefferson Street
Woodstock, Illinois 60098

Centerpoint Mental Health Center of Champaign County***
1801 Fox Drive
Champaign, Illinois 61820

New Moms, Inc. *
2825 West McLean
Chicago, Illinois 60647

Nia Comprehensive Center for Developmental Disabilities**
1808 South State Street
Chicago, Illinois 60616

Planned Parenthood of Decatur, Inc.**
3021 North Oakland Avenue
Decatur, Illinois 62526

Planned Parenthood of East Central Illinois**
318 West Washington, 3rd Floor
Bloomington, Illinois 61701

Shawnee Adolescent Health Center***
101 South Wall Street
Carbondale, Illinois 62901-3220

Tri-County (Peoria) Urban League, Inc.**
317 South MacArthur Highway
Peoria, Illinois 61605-3875

United Front, Inc.**
601 W. Washington
P.O. Box 544
Cairo, Illinois 62914

Chicago Public Schools with Peer Power/ADAM programs:

Ludwig von Beethoven School
25 West 47th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60609

Anton Dvorak School
3615 West 16th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60623

Edward Hartigan School
8 West Root Street
Chicago, Illinois 60609

Cesar Estrada Chavez
4747 South Marshfield
Chicago, Illinois 60609

Toward Teen Health

Katherine T. Bogan-DuSable Adolescent Health Center
Jean Baptiste Point DuSable High School
4934 South Wabash Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60615

Minnie Huginnie-Crane Adolescent Health Center
Richard T. Crane High School
2245 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60612

Dawson-Ford Health Center
Ludwig van Beethoven Elementary School
25 West 47th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60609

Orr Adolescent Health Center
Rezin Orr Community Academy
730 North Pulaski Road
Chicago, Illinois 60624

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